



HF Happenings

No 505

May 2012

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
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Who knows where this "Tin Hat" is? Moreover, what is the history behind it?

Some More Time for ZU Licensees over 25 to write the Class A Exam

ZU Licensees (class B) will have more time to study and write the Class A examination. In a discussion with ICASA, the agency confirmed that the rule that Class B licensees will lose their licence if they are over 25 years old would only apply once the corrections to the regulation, which were published on 31 March 2011, have been promulgated. After that date, holders of ZU licences who are over 25 years old will get two years to qualify for the Class A licence.

There is no indication when the revisions will be published. The revised regulations are being held up pending court action by one of the spectrum users, which may affect one of the regulations. ICASA's legal department believes that by publishing the amateur radio portion of the regulations separately will jeopardise their case in court.

Youth Day Sprint

The annual Youth Day Sprint will be held on Saturday 16 June, Youth Day, from 10:00 - 12:00 CAT. There are many prizes to be won in this 2 hour 40 metre fun event. Radio Amateurs are encouraged to invite young persons to enjoy the event from their station and to give youngsters a hands-on experience of amateur radio. The youth day Sprint is part of the 2012 National Amateur Radio Day. Visit www.sarl.org.za for more details.

National Amateur Radio Day, 16 June 2012

The South Africa Radio League has named 16 June as National Amateur Radio Day, celebrating Amateur Radio as a National Resource and its diversity as the most exciting of all scientific hobbies.

The objective is to take amateur radio to the public by exhibiting and doing live demonstrations of the various aspects that make amateur radio great and a fun thing to be part of. It is planned that the activity be run from 09:00 - 14:00.

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





Individual participation

All radio amateurs should participate. Here are some ideas what you as an individual can do - operate from a park near you using trees as antenna supports and operate. A simple dipole or inverted V will get you on 20 and 40 metres. You may not talk to the world but you will communicate with stations in Southern Africa. Moreover, if the band is open who knows whom you will talk to? Get family members to help you distribute brochures about amateur radio and hand out buttons with an amateur radio slogan, which are all available from the SARL.

Those who are stuck at home for what ever reason, you can still participate by getting on the air and talk to the demo stations.

Club Participation

Set up a display at a busy shopping centre or large store like Incredible Connection, a Camping store or a large super market or in a park.

On the air activities on National Amateur Radio Day will include the Youth Day Sprint.

Supporting activities

09:00 - 09:55 Young people talk about amateur radio. Young people talk about amateur radio is a pre-recorded programme with young people talking about how they came into amateur radio and what it means to them. If you are under 25, send an email with your contact details to artoday@sarl.org.za to participate.

10:00 - 12:00 Youth Day Sprint. This is a fun activity to Celebrate Youth Day and to promote contacts between young radio amateurs in Southern African countries. Call "CQ Youth Day". Many prizes to be won by participants.

12:00 - 12:45 Senior Amateurs Remember. Senior Amateurs Remember is a pre-recorded programme with senior amateurs sharing their experience and unusual events in Amateur Radio. Audio files will be available to clubs to broadcast on HF and VHF. To take part send your contact details to artoday@sarl.org.za.

More details about all the National Amateur Radio Day activities will be mailed to members and clubs during next week and will be available on www.sarl.org.za.

May 2012

1 – Worker's Day
5 and 6 – Riebeek Valley Olive Festival, Riebeek Kasteel and Riebeek West; LA Sports 4x4 Products in Action Show, Pretoria
6 – ZS3 Sprint
12 – SA AMSAT Symposium, Durban
12 and 13 – AWA Valve QSO Party
13 – Mother's Day
17 – Ascension Day
18 to 20 – ABSA Calitzdorp Port and Wine Festival
18 to 20 – Dayton Hamvention
20 – ZS4 Sprint
20 - National Museums Day
24 – Radio Amateur Exam
26 – Stars and Planets evening, Gariep Dam
26 and 27 – CQ WPX CW Contest
27 – SARL Digital contest
30 – SARL 80 m Club contest, digital

June

2 – Feast of Shiraz and Charcuterie, Hartenberg Wine Estate
3 – 2012 Comrades Marathon
2 and 3 – topCar Gauteng Motor Show, Zwartkops
5 – World Environmental Day
6 – Transit of Venus
7 to 10 – Wacky Wine Weekend, Robertson Valley
9 – First Ascent Big Induna Mountain Biking Classic, Hazyview
15 to 17 – Cape Town Book Fair
16 – Youth Day
16 – SA Amateur Radio Day; Youth Day Contest
17 – Father's Day; World QRP Day
21 to 25 – SARL Top Band QSO Party
22 – Schools close
22 to 24 – Ham Radio 2012, Friedrichshafen
28 to 8 July – National Arts Festival, Grahamstown
29 – 8 July – East Coast Radio House and Garden Show, Durban
30 to 1 July – Christmas in Winter, Tulbagh





Worked All Continents (WAC)

Award Requirements. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) issues Worked All Continents certificates to amateur radio stations to recognise two-way radio communication.

Qualification for the WAC award is based on an examination by the International Secretariat, or by a member society of the IARU, of QSL cards that the applicant has received from amateur stations in each of the six continental areas of the world. All contacts must be made from the same country or separate territory within the same continental area of the world. Only original QSL cards are accepted.



Endorsements for a single mode or for five or six bands are available. For a five or six band endorsement, the requirements must be met on each of the bands. Contacts made on the 10, 18 and 25 MHz bands or via satellites do not count for these endorsements. The QSL cards must clearly show the mode or band to qualify for an endorsement. A QRP endorsement is also available, for contacts made on or after 1 January 1985 while running a maximum of 5 W output or 10 W input.

The following information should be helpful in determining the continental area of a station located adjacent to a continent:

- Africa includes Madeira (CT3), Gan Island (8Q), French Austral Territory (FT) and Heard Island (VK0), as well as many Indian Ocean islands.
- Asia includes Ogasawara Islands (JD1), most of the Maldives (8Q), Socotra Island (7O), Abu Ail Island (J2/A), Cyprus (5B, ZC4), Eastern Turkey (TA2-9) and Georgia (4L).
- Europe includes the first to sixth call areas of Russia (R1-6), West Istanbul (TA1), most Italian islands (I) and Azores (CU).
- North America includes Greenland (OX), the Caribbean and Central America.
- Oceania includes Minami Torishima (JD1), Philippines (DU), Eastern Malaysia (9M6-8) and Indonesia (YB).
- South America includes Trinidad & Tobago (9Y), Aruba (P4), Curacao & Bonaire (PJ2-4) and Easter Island (CE0).

WAC application forms are at present available in MS Word and Adobe PDF format on the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Web site, www.parc.org.za under "Awards." Once completed, applications and the QSL cards should be directed to Awards Manager, South African Radio League, PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735

After verification, the cards will be returned to the applicant, followed soon after by the certificate. The fee is R 60. A self-addressed stamped envelope must be included if the applicant would like to have the QSL cards returned. South African amateurs must be current SARL members. Email enquiries can be directed to zs6p@iafrica.com.

Intruder watch

by Ulrich Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, of the DARC intruder watch.

Chinese OTHR (over the horizon radars) and Codar Sea radars are ubiquitously found on the 40 m band in great quantities, disturbing radio amateurs mostly in IARU Region 3 and on the US West coast. At times, as much as half of the spectrum of the 40 m band is covered by interference of radars and thus unusable for radio amateurs in those regions.





In Germany, those interferers are mostly not audible. A Codar (sea radar), most likely located in Indonesia, was observed over the last weeks between 14 070 and 14 125 kHz, audible in Germany after 15:00 UTC. It has been reported to the German BNetzA and the Swiss BAKOM.

The bands between 17 and 10 m are often suffering from strong interference from OTHRs from Turkey and the Royal Air Force from Cyprus. 15 m in particular is covered by strong radar interference for hours every day, sometimes both OTHRs are active at the same time.

The intruder watch received 104 reports for unknown radars on 15 m, 61 on 10 m. Due to improved sporadic E conditions on 10 m, the number of reported intruders increased significantly. Intruders, which may have been active for years already, now became audible on a regular basis: Taxis from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on FM in Russian language, and radio pirates from many different countries can be observed in AM, FM and SSB.

An Intruder Watch meeting takes place on 23 June at 10:00 CET on this years Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen (meeting room "Schweiz"). Guest speaker Peter Jost, HB9CET, of the Swiss intruder watch will talk about "Digital Intruders on our bands - from freeware to high-tech."

African DX

Somalia, 6O. Darko, J28AA/E70A, will be active as 6O3A from Hargesia again, between 25 and 31 May. Activities will be on HF using SSB and RTTY, as well as on 50 MHz. QSL via E77E or K2PF. <http://bhcc.ba/>

Senegal, 6W. Vlad, RK4FF, will take part as 6V7S in the SOAB category of the CQ WPX CW Contest. QSL via home call.

Angola, D2. Mike, UA1QV, is active on 20 m SSB as D3AA from near Lunda-Sul, and plans to activate all bands including 160 m eventually. There is currently no information about the intended duration of his activities. QSL via home call.

Sudan, ST. Robert, S53R, will be active from Sudan as ST2AR in the CQ WPX CW Contest. QSL via home call and LoTW.

African Islands

Canary Islands. EA8, IOTA AF-004. EE8X is the call sign of Luis, EA8AY, in the CQ WPX CW (SOAB). His QTH is Santa Cruz, Teneriffa. QSL direct via W2GR. More information at <http://www.ea8ay.com/ef8x/>

Special Event Stations

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 21 to 28 May 2012.

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 May 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 23 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call, K9SKC, per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 25 May 2012

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 23 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 24 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults





Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 26 May 2012

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 24 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 31 May 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:30 - 02:00 UTC 25 May

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 May 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 25 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 May 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>





CQ WW WPX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 26 May to 23:59 UTC 27 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - low or high - tribander or rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160/80/40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20/15/10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160/80/40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20/15/10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160/80/40 m QSO between stations in NA; 2 points per 20/15/10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1 point per QSO with same country (except in NA)

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 June 2012

E-mail logs to: cw@cqwpw.com

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, 11 Hollis Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 27 May

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 3 June 2012

E-mail logs to: contest@sarl.org.za

Mail logs to: West Rand Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5344, Weltevreden Park 1725, South Africa

Find rules at:

http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/SARL_2012_Contest_Manual_issue_10.pdf

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint

20:00 - 24:00 local 27 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no or power





Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent

Bonus: 5 000 points if you operate portable using battery power and a temporary antenna

Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band

Power Mult: $>5\text{ W} = \times 1$, $1 - 5\text{ W} = \times 7$, $250\text{ mW} - 1\text{ W} = \times 10$, $55 - 250\text{ mW} = \times 15$, $<55\text{ mW} = \times 20$

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 10 June 2012

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint, c/o Jim Rodenkirch, K9JWV, 762 Saint James Lane, Saint George, UT 84790, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/8394/118/>

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

23:00 UTC 28 May to 03:00 UTC 29 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: less 250 mW; 250 mW - 1 W; 1 - 5 W; greater 5W

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power output

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with members; 2 points per QSO with non-member W/VE stations; 4 points per QSO with non-member DX stations

Multipliers: Each state, province or country, once per band

Bonus: multiply total points by 1,25 if xmtr or receiver is homebrew; multiply total points by 1,5 if both xmtr and receiver are homebrew

Score Calculation: Total score = bonus multiplier x total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 June 2012

E-mail logs to: n8xx@arrl.org

Mail logs to: Hank Greeb, N8XX, 5727 11 Mile Rd NE, Rockford, MI 49341, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrpcclub/contest.html>

Next Week's Contests

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 28 May to 03:00 UTC 29 May

SARL 80 m Club Contest, Digital, 17:30 - 18:30 UTC 30 May

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 June

HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest, 17:30 - 18:00 UTC (80 m) 18:00 - 18:30 UTC 1 June (40 m)

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest, 00:00 UTC 2 June to 24:00 UTC 3 June

Maritime QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 2 June to 03:00 UTC 3 June

Alabama QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 2 June to 04:00 UTC 3 June

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 4 June

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 5 June

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 21 May 2012.

1785 - Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals (23 May)

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





- 1819 - First bicycles (swift walkers) in US introduced in New York City (21 May)
- 1844 - Samuel FB Morse taps out "What hath God wrought" - 1st telegraph message (24 May)
- 1844 - First telegraphed news dispatch is published in Baltimore Patriot (25 May)
- 1844 - Samuel F.B. Morse completes first telegraph line (27 May)
- 1891 - First motion picture shown to National Federation of Women's Clubs (22 May)
- 1892 - Dr Washington Sheffield invents the toothpaste tube (22 May)
- 1900 - The British annex the Oranje Vrij-Staat (24 May)
- 1906 - Wright Brothers patent an aeroplane (22 May)
- 1906 - Louis H Perlman patents a demountable tyre-carrying rim for cars (21 May)
- 1919 - Charles Strite patents pop-up toaster (27 May)
- 1927 - Charles Lindburgh lands in Paris after first solo transatlantic crossing (21 May)
- 1932 - Amelia Earhart lands after first transatlantic solo flight by a woman (21 May)
- 1946 - Patent filed in US for H-Bomb (26 May)
- 1964 - First nuclear-powered lighthouse begins operations at Chesapeake Bay (21 May)

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

